



Friday  
December 10,  
2010

# Weekly Views

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) held a Sesquicentennial Celebration for 150 years of continued business. Approximately 350 people were in attendance. Commissioner Edwin Buss, former Commissioner J. David Donahue, former ISP Superintendent Mark Levenhagen, former ISP Warden Jack Duckworth, members from the Community Advisory Board, local media, and retired staff all came to celebrate this joyous event. A panel of five offenders with a combined total of 150 years served at ISP spoke to the audience about their experiences and the changes they have witnessed at the facility. An offender choir also entertained the audience with Christmas Songs prior to the celebration.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's 2010 Fatherhood Program Winter Carnival was a big success! 84 children, their caregivers and 42 offenders took part, enjoying chicken and noodles while the youngsters made snowflakes, Christmas tree ornaments and Dad cards! PLUS made quilts and stockings stuffed full of goodies were given to all the youth attending this year's event.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility donated approximately 200 books to the Read UP program, through United Way. The books will help children advance their reading skills. So far, 1,600 books have been donated to the program by the Department. Steve Vancleave from central office donated over 1,000 books alone! The Read UP program utilizes adult volunteers for mentoring and tutoring 3rd and 4th grade schoolchildren. Over the past school semester, several IDOC staff members have volunteered their time to tutor students in the Read UP program.



Fourteen members of the Lions Club International from China were accompanied by several representatives from the Lions International Headquarters in Illinois to tour the eyeglass recycling program at Westville Correctional Facility. Bringing tears to their eyes, the group was overwhelmed with the scope of humanitarian work done and the dedication of the offenders to providing relief to the world.

New Castle Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit delivered 200 PLUS Critters to Henry County Senior Council for stuffing into snack bags for delivery to County Seniors who are shut-ins. The bags will contain snack items, hygiene items and a "critter" for each recipient.

The IDOC Human Resources Team held their semi-annual conference at the Governor's Residence. The event allowed the team to share best practices, identify and address issues, and build working relationships. Guest speakers from State Personnel Division Field Operations and Employee Relations addressed the group. (see photo above)

Lemuel Vega and 74 volunteers associated with the Christmas Behind Bars Prison Ministry Organization visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to distribute gift bags to the offender population.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders donated and wrapped \$7500 worth of clothing and toys to be given to 70 unprivileged children this Holiday Season through the Westminster Community Center.

Blood donations are critically needed during the holiday season and Wabash Valley staff, like Motor Pool mechanic Greg Exline, joined 20 of their fellow staffers in giving the gift of life during the Indiana Blood Center drive at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. (see photo right)

Approximately 30 individuals from the LaPorte County Leadership Class came to the Indiana State Prison for a rare opportunity to speak to offenders and administrators and receive a tour of the facility. The group was unanimous in agreeing that it was a valuable experience.



Harrison College Criminal Justice students braved the cold this week to tour the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. The Terre Haute campus students also took part in a question/answer session with Assistant Superintendents Dick Brown and Jack Hendrix, learning more about offender programs vital to successful re-entry.

13 staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility rang the bell for the Salvation Army.

Indiana State Representative Wes Culver came to the Indiana State Prison and was given a tour by Superintendent Wilson.